Volume 17, No. 2 June 2006 F R E E

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Established in 1990, by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

Governor to cut children off welfare

by WROC members Karin Murphy, Shannon Blood and Monica Peabody

SANCTION: A penalty intended to enforce compliance or conformity; a coercive measure adopted usually by several nations against a nation violating international law.

Does this seem like a word that should be associated with Washington's poor children? Yes, according to Governor Gregoire. As of March 2007, children living in Washington will be "sanctioned"—their welfare benefits cut off—if their parents are perceived as not complying with welfare to work programs. Though it will harm children already facing a lack of support for basic needs, Gregoire is moving ahead with this policy change, despite:

- over 500 letters and phone calls from constituents asking her not to cut welfare to children,
- the welfare department's internal survey of 500 families in sanction, showing that most were sanctioned unfairly; they had reasons outside their control like lack of transportation or childcare, disabilities or other reasons preventing them from participating,
- compelling written and spoken testimony from individuals and organizations explaining how this action will harm children,
- a group of concerned legislators asking her to protect children,
- research from other states that have sanctioned children showing that families whose welfare benefits are cut are those with the least education and work experience and who face the greatest barriers to work; they experience greater hardships, are less likely to become employed, and when employed, earn lower wages.
- statistics showing families of color are disproportionately impacted by sanctions, especially Native American families who have been sanctioned at nearly twice the rate of other families.

> Governor Gregoire now wants to go so far as to punish children for the inadequacies of the Work First program.

Since President Clinton's Personal Responsibility Act in 1996, known as welfare reform, it seems an inordinate amount of responsibility has been heaped onto children. They are the majority of welfare recipients and the population most likely to be poor in our nation. The majority of poor children live in single parent families. In Washington, a single parent with two children receives only $546 in cash assistance. That amount hasn't increased in 14 years. The parent receives no, or inadequate, child support. They are required to look for work outside the home, while their work as sole caretaker for their children is devalued. Washington's welfare to work program is called Work First, while ironically our foster care system is called Children First. Allowing parents to care for their own children is more cost effective.

Work First has done a poor job of moving parents into living wage work. A state survey shows that parents who leave assistance for wages average less than $8 an hour. Rules require parents to take the first job offered, do not allow them to quit that job, and provide childcare support for only one year of college. Washington's Work First program is not a pathway out of poverty or to a better life, as it claims, but a dead end to a lifetime

▸ **Guv'nah** *continued on page 9*

Cut out the clock and clock hand. Keep the hand pointed at the current month. Put this clock in your window, car, or other public place to show that children will be losing their safety net!

A call for direct action against the war

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

The war in Iraq is the most unpopular war in history. The international community has opposed the war, and even those nations that were first supportive are now retracting their support: Spain has already pulled out, and Italy has committed itself to pulling out by the end of the year, if not earlier. In America, support for the war has plummeted. Polls have consistently shown that the majority—with some polls demonstrating almost 70%—of Americans believe the occupation is wrong, and US troops should be brought back home immediately. The opposition to the Bush administration's willingness to "stay the course" has also found its way into the military. A growing number of soldiers and military officials are questioning the reasons for the United States to remain in Iraq. Indeed, at this point it is a fact and not merely propaganda to proclaim that the majority of people in every country, even the United States, want peace.

A question lingers in the face of this fact: if the majority of people in the United States want peace, then why don't we have it? The answer is that the war in Iraq doesn't demonstrate a failure of policy, but a failure of democracy. Currently, the opposition against the war in Iraq has popular support, but not active support. The message of the peace movement in the United States reflects people's opinions, but not their desires and not their actions. This makes our current time period critical for ending the war. We must now start the process of moving from protest to resistance, from education to direct action, from working within the system to building our own outside of it.

In Olympia, this process has already begun in the nonviolent "mini-rebellion" of activists who have sought to block the shipment of materials and soldiers to Iraq along Olympia's port. What these activists have done in terms of physical stoppage of the war is very little. The actions of a small group of people, no matter how well-intended or effectively executed, will never be able to stop the massive workings of the world's largest empire. True peace will happen by mass action or it won't happen at all. However, what they have produced in inspiration is priceless. They are demonstrating both the need and the possibility for a prolonged civic resistance against the United States government.

To call their actions civil disobedience is a bit misleading. Their actions, though technically violations of minor local laws—trespassing, blocking traffic, disorderly conduct—are fully protected under international law. The Nuremberg Trials clearly laid down the principle that citizens not only have a right, but a duty, to disobey and resist the laws of regimes that ignore international law. The United States government, without any doubt, is such a regime. The conflicts in Iraq are not

> The Nuremberg Trials clearly laid down the principle that citizens not only have a right, but a duty, to disobey and resist the laws of regimes that ignore international law.

▸ **Direct Action** *continued on page 5*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the ***Works In Progress*** and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

*If you don't see your issue being covered in **Works In Progress**, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to wip@zhonka.net or mail to ***Works In Progress***, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. ***Works In Progress*** is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed ***WIP***s below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. ***WIP*** is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover—*Olympia Port Militarization Resistance*

See related articles on pages 1, 6, 7.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: June 23rd

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Announcements

Stop CAT National Day of Action

Wed, June 14th, 4pm, NC Machinery, 17035 W Valley Highway, Tukwila

NC Machinery is our largest distributor of Caterpillar equipment in the northwest. This is our third year demonstrating at their corporate offices in Tukwila, Washington. NC Machinery persistently disregards our attempts to speak with them about Caterpillar Inc.'s role in the continued perpetration of human rights abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

We are calling on Caterpillar Inc. to investigate its role in human rights abuses and cease its support of the Israeli military through the supply of Caterpillar equipment, including the CAT D9 militarized bulldozer, which was used in the killing of Rachel Corrie and numerous Palestinian civilians, and in the destruction of agricultural land and demolition of homes.

Carpools will be leaving Olympia at 2:30 pm from the parking lot at Harrison and Division.

Info: www.olycatcampaign.org
olycat@gmail.com • (360)485 5745

(See related article on page 9)

Alliance for Democracy Movie Night

Argentina: Hope in Hard Times

Sunday, June 4, 6pm, Traditions Fair Trade Café, 300 - 5th Avenue

Argentina: Hope in Hard Times documents how Argentina embraced the policies of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, anticipating an economic boom. But in December 2001, the Argentine economy collapsed, and one of the most prosperous countries in South America was thrust into poverty. The film joins in the processions and protests, attends street-corner neighborhood assemblies, visits urban gardens, and cooperatives where workers are reviving production in factories abandoned by bankrupt owners. Argentines are picking up the pieces of their devastated economy to create new possibilities for the future. Discussion will follow.

Free. Donations accepted ($5 - $25).

Contact Alliance for Democracy: www.SoundDemocracy.org.

Northwest premiere:

Conviction

Sunday, June 4, 6pm, Capitol Theater, downtown Olympia

See related article on page 11

"Not in Any Town" Panel Discussions
Deconstructing Oppression:
Olympia Unite Against Privilege & Power!

Immigration, Racism, Anti-Semitism—Historically & currently

Thursday, June 8th, 7pm, Sylvester Park (Legion and Capitol Way, downtown Oly)
If rain: Free School 610 S. Columbia St.
Speakers include: **Carlos Marentes** and **Peter Bohmer**

Panel Discussion Series Description:
Recently, the national socialist movement (Nazis) has targeted Olympia. Our response has been rapid and clear: "Not in our town, not in any town".

However, we need to go beyond combating the most apparent symptom of the racist, classist, sexist, homophobic, nationalist, and ethnocentric society we live in. Only a very small percentage of our society lives without daily oppression. The majority of people face oppression on more than one front. We need to educate ourselves about and come to terms with the systemic nature of oppression in our society; about the ways in which different groups of people experience and are struggling against unique forms of oppression. Why do we need to do this? To have a basis to act, to unite in solidarity against oppression in all its manifestations because we are able to see that the struggle against one form of oppression is tied to the struggle against oppression in general.

"No one is free when others are oppressed."

Because of our vision for a community that is united and active against both institutional and societal/individual manifestations of oppression, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace will be holding a series of panel discussions and workshops in the month of June. We hope that these discussions will provide an opportunity for community education and mobilize the community to respond to the Nazis, but also and most importantly that they will spur people into action against oppression in all its manifestations based on solidarity.

Stop the Green Scare before it Stops You!

Reclaim the Streets Parade & Party

Friday, June 9th, 4pm, Heritage Park!! Bring noisemakers and marching/dancing shoes! There will be music and speakers!

(See related article on page 8)

Educational forum:

The Green Scare, the Patriot Act, and You!

Saturday, June 10th, 4-6pm, Friendship Hall, Olympia YWCA 220 Union Ave SE

(See related article on page 8)

Benefit concert for Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher

Saturday, June 10th, 8pm,
ABC House, 105 Sherman St. SW
Musicians include: Onyx, rain, & Lake.
supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com

(See related article on page 8)

Single Payer or Health Savings Accounts?

A Debate: "Prescription for a Sick Health Care System"

Tuesday, June 13, 7 - 9pm • United Churches, 110 - 11th Ave SE, Olympia

You are invited to attend a debate between two perspectives on how best to remedy our ailing health care system. Aaron Katz will present the Single Payer view: replace private insurance with a publicly funded universal health care system. Paul Guppy will present the Health Savings Account view: provide tax breaks to let people save more towards their own health care.

Deborah Vinsel, Executive Director at TCTV, will moderate. Free. *Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice & Peace*
www.omjp.org • Info: Gar 943-1529

"Not in Any Town" Panel Discussions
Deconstructing Oppression:
Olympia Unite Against Privilege & Power!

Gender and Sexuality; Dissolving Patriarchy

Thursday, June 22nd, 7pm, Traditions Café (Corner of 5th and Waters, downtown Oly)
Speakers include: **John Venzina**, Stonewall Youth
See: *Panel Discussion Series Description* (June 8th)

Summer School for Union Women and Community Activists

June 28 – July 2nd, 2006
The Evergreen State College Labor Center hosts its 16th Annual Summer School.

Find your voice • Become inspired •
Learn by doing • Make great connections
Have Fun • We are the leaders we have been looking for!

Info: Nina Trifflеman or Kit Gomez-Alba at (360) 867-6525, trifflen@evergreen.edu

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"Not in Any Town" Panel Discussions
Deconstructing Oppression:
Olympia Unite Against Privilege & Power!

Race, Class, Poverty, and Prisons

Thursday, June 29th, 7pm, Traditions Café

Speakers include: Aaron Dixon-Green
Candidate for U.S. Senate, former leader of Black Panther Party in Seattle
See: *Panel Discussion Series Description* (June 8th)

▸ **Announcements** *continued pg 4*

June 2006

Keep an eye on Ohio and Kenny B

Ohio voters in 2004 passed an anti-gay marriage initiative by 62% with half a million more votes than Bush received.

This year Ohio created its own "Little Patriot Act". Reminiscent of the Truman's loyalty oath, State job applicants must answer 6 questions, one being whether they are on the Federal Anti-Terrorist list. If one is found to be untruthful, it is a felony offense.

Kenneth Blackwell, Ohio's infamous Secretary of State, has a good chance of becoming the first Black Republican governor this fall. And if he does, some say he is vice-president material. Regularly carrying a Bible to events, Blackwell advocates for flat tax and "traditional" values, and associates with and speaks before fundamentalist Christian groups. Notably this spring Blackwell spoke before the Council for National Policy well known for its secrecy, powerful members (some who were affiliated with the John Birch society), and its intent to drastically reduce government services and create a Christian Theocracy.

Sources: townhall.com; Real Clear Politics; AP Online; The Toledo Blade; City Journal; Human Events Online; and The Free Press

... it is time to acknowledge that homosexual behavior threatens the foundation of Western civilization—the nuclear family.
Steve Baldwin, CNP Executive Director

				1 2005: Rumsfeld warns Iraq's neighbors not to provide medical treatment or safe haven to Jordanian insurgent	**2** 2002: Ashcroft refutes criticism that new surveillance rules could cause excessive spying on US citizens	**3** 2005: Rumsfeld tells Bejing to provide more political freedom to its citizens and questioned its military build up
4 2005: Aide claims Bolton orchestrated firing of diplomat who wanted to send weapon inspectors to Iraq	**5** 1905: NY clergy say Russians are pagans 2001: Pentagon fraud agency making fake documents	**6** 2005: Rossi concedes 2005: Supreme Court rules those who smoke medical marijuana can arrested under fed law	**7** 2005: Army misses May recruiting goal by 25% even though it reduced the target number from 8,050 to 6,700	**8** 2005: Congressman say dispute in House ethics committee could delay examining activities of Tom Delay for months	**9** 2005: WA state revokes controversial personalized license plate that states "F DUBYA"	**10** 2005: Bush environmental adviser quits after it is revealed he doctored climate reports
11 1997: Christian Coalition announces Randy Tate will replace Ralph Reed as executive director	**12** 2005: Cheney says that the administration has no plans to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay	**13** 2005: Jury selection begins in murder trial of Edgar Ray Killen for the deaths of three voter-registration workers	**14** 2005: Kurdish forces backed by US troops are illegally detaining 100s of minorities sometimes for months is reported	**15** 2003: US begins operation to gather those that are believed too be threats to coalition forces and civil order	**16** 2005: Jeb Bush asks for review of 911 records to determine if Schiavo's husband called 911 in a timely manner	**17** 2005: Wisconsin Assembly approves ban on so-called morning-after pill on state college campuses
18 2000: LA Times poll shows two-thirds think decision to have abortion must be left to woman and her doctor	**19** 1912: US adopts the 8-hour-day for all its employees 1953: The Rosenbergs are executed	**20** 2005: House passes big defense spending bill after GOP Rep rescinds remark that Democrats demonize Christians	**21** 1996: Defense Dept admits those who served in 1991 Persian Gulf War may have been exposed to toxic agents	**22** 2000: Research center says US should rethink its approval of olestra after Canada rejected the use of the fat substitute	**23** 2005: Condoleezza Rice tells Syria to follow through on pledge to secure its border w/ Iraq to keep out terrorists	**24** 2005: It is confirmed that an 8-year-old cow in Texas is infected with mad cow disease, 2nd case found in US
25 2005: The Dept of Agriculture withheld information on mad cow disease infected animal for 7 months	**26** 2000: Supreme Court upholds Miranda 2005: Billy Graham gives what he calls his last revival sermon	**27** 2002: Supreme Court rules school vouchers constitutional; parents can choose either parochial or secular	**28** 1999: Clinton announces budget surplus of $1.1 trillion; wants to use for social programs/debt reduction	**29** 1972: US Supreme Court rules death penalty cruel and unusual punishment which violated the 8th Amendment	**30** 1958: Supreme Court reverses $100,000 fine imposed by Alabama on NAACP for not divulging membership	America has a mission to share a living savior with a dying world. OH Restoration Project

Why Iran?

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

Despite the lofty rhetoric, the United States did not fight the Cold War against the tyranny of Communism. The former Soviet Union was a side issue for the United States. The primary targets and victims of the Cold War, both domestically and abroad, were democratic forces that could demonstrate that more inclusive social systems—particularly economic and political—are possible. It was often the case, as in Central and South America, that United States sought to drive left-leaning political systems into the arms of the Soviets as a pretext for military invasion.

For the most part, the Soviet Union, when it wasn't playing the role as the convenient boogeyman, was an annoying military buttress to the spread of American markets. With the fall of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Berlin Wall at the end of the 1980s, the United States was freer to monopolize the world's resources, but it had new problems: no boogeyman to justify invasions and two strong forces still stood in the way of hegemony. Those two forces are democratic social movements, and "rogue states"—nations that have refused, for whatever reason, to collaborate with American hegemony. Iran falls into this second group. It has committed the carnal sin of not taking direction from Washington; it trades oil and natural gas with US competitors and remains hostile to western influence. Again oil, the primary reason for the Iraq invasion, plays a crucial factor—but oil in and of its self is not the reason why the United States is interested in Iran. The greatest "natural resource" up for exploitation in Iran is global positioning. Iran is crucial because the fate of the country will determine the future of US global dominance.

Iran is crucial because the fate of the country will determine the future of US global dominance.

Iran has the second largest oil reserve in the world. Saudi Arabia is the first, and Iraq is the third. The US already has a secure relationship with Saudi Arabia, and is trying to secure itself in Iraq. The United States has had an intimate relationship with the Saudis since US corporations helped industrialize and westernize (in the terms of markets) the country throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In many ways, the US helps keep the Saudi royal family in power. As for Iraq, if everything goes as planned and Paul Bremer's "100 Orders" are fully instituted, US corporations will own the country while the Iraqi government will run it with US military oversight. Iran is the only nation out of the three that the US doesn't control, and it may be the most important out of the three. Iran sits on the Strait of Hormuz where 40% of the world's oil exports pass through on a daily basis. In addition, Iran's oil is not well known. It has only been tapped recently, and much of the country's petroleum potential hasn't been explored. Ecology is finally catching-up with capitalist ingenuity. The prospects of hitting "peak oil" is a reality. Some estimate that oil consumption will increase by 50% in the next 20 years, while production capabilities may peak as early as 2010! Despite these predictions of petroleum calamity, oil remains a major staple of the global economy, and therefore a major determinate in global affairs.

Currently, Iran is eager to trade its oil and has developed relations with many major countries in Asia—including Japan, India, and China. Japan and China are of particular importance. Before the collapse of the Japanese economy, Japan asserted a tremendous amount of control over Asia, and was a becoming a major influence in global decision-making. From the late 1980s to mid 1990s, the two main economic entities which rival the United States were Europe, whose on-going unification has been an attempt to secure itself as an economic unit, and Japan. That all changed after the Japanese economy bubbled and burst. Now it is trying to regain lost ground—and really doesn't care what Washington has to say about it. However, it still may be too little too late for Japan as China could turn out to be the more powerful nation to rise out of Asia. Since the opening of Chinese markets, the possibility of China being a major player—even a superpower—has become a reality. China may be the only single nation with the population, military, and economic potential to rival US hegemony in the future. Much of this growth is directly related to trade relations with Iran. In 2003, Iran supplied 14% of China's oil imports. This percentage is expected to increase in the future. China also relies on Iran for a large shares of its liquid natural gas, and major Chinese and Japanese firms are doing big business around the oil economy in Iran.

Of course American corporations would love to get their hands on Iranian oil too, but they can't. In 1995, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12959. The order restricts US companies from doing business with Iran, and threatens to punish foreign firms for doing so too. The business deals of Japan and China, aren't making Washington happy. The United States has barred this business because it fears that trade with Iran will help make the country, and the anti-American mullahs who control it, stronger; and a strong anti-American country in the heart of a very volatile region is the last thing that the US wants.

That is also why the United States is trying to limit Iran's nuclear weapon capabilities. All the recent news coverage and discussion about Iran's nuclear weapon potential does have some truth to it. The country has been investigating potential with the possibility of developing nuclear weapons, and has refused or been extremely reluctant to open itself up to inspection. In September 2004, Iran rejected the International Atomic Energy Agency's call for closing down its nuclear fuel production—which many people believed to be part of a greater program to develop nuclear weapons. In addition, Iran recently test-fired ballistic missile with enough range to hit Israel and US military bases. However, the accounts from some in the State Department are exaggeration and grossly misleading. First, the United States doesn't have a genuine concern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons. If it did, it would seek to disarm the country with most nuclear weapons in world and who is the only country to use nuclear weapons on another nation—the US. Next, Iran nuclear weapon potential is no where near the capacity of eminent threat—enough to warrant at least a rational justification for invasion. Lastly, the of goal of disarming Iran is not about protecting people, its about protecting nation-states. The United States fears that Iran will use its nuclear weapons against Israel or another nations who are allied with the US in the region. These attacks could destabilize the strong-hold that the US has built.

In short—to protect both its economic and military interest, the United States needs to get rid of the present government in Iran, and institute one that will open-up the country to US corporations.

If the United States does attack Iran, it is not likely that the country will be able to defend itself. Compared to the massive might of the United States military, Iranian forces, (like most nations) are completely pathetic. It is likely that the country will experience a rapid take-over, or collapse into the mayhem that Iraq is unfortunately experiencing. However, there is another force beside the Iranian military that may be able to prevent another US war—the democratic forces that have been the main target of US aggression. The benefit of supporting this force, instead of the Iranian military, is that it has a sincere dedication to peace through a radical transformation of social institutions. It has been the major target of the Cold War for a reason: in the end, it is the biggest threat to U.S. hegemony. The only real question is whether enough people will participate in these democratic forces before its too late.

Announcements *(continued from page 2)*

Olympia Local, American Postal Workers Union presents…

Triple Trouble Tour: Anne Feeney, Dave Lippman, and George Shrub

Friday, June 30th, 7:30pm Labor Temple, 119 - 1/2 N. Capitol Way, Olympia
$10 suggested ($5 low income, no one turned away)

Olympia Unite Against Privilege & Power!

Anti-Oppression Workshop: deconstructing oppression on a personal and political level

Saturday, July 1st, 12pm,
Free School (610 S Columbia)
Facilitator: Margo Bayer
See: *Panel Discussion Series Description* (June 8th)

Olympia Unite Against Privilege & Power!

Compassionate Communication workshop

July 1st, 5:30 pm, Free School
Facilitator: Suska Davis
See: *Panel Discussion Series Description* (June 8th)

AmeriCorps is Recruiting New Members for the 2006-07 Program Year

Community Youth Services offers two AmeriCorps programs to meet community needs:

The Washington Reading Corps offers opportunities for potential members ages 17 and older to help improve reading skills for kindergarten through sixth grade students. Full-time tutors are needed to provide one-on-one and small group tutoring, to organize family literacy events, and design reading enrichment activities. Positions start on September 1, 2006.

Youth in Service offers opportunities for potential members ages 18 to 25 who may serve in a variety of roles, including tutoring, mentoring, advocacy, and support to children and families in schools and social service organizations. Positions start on September 1, 2006.

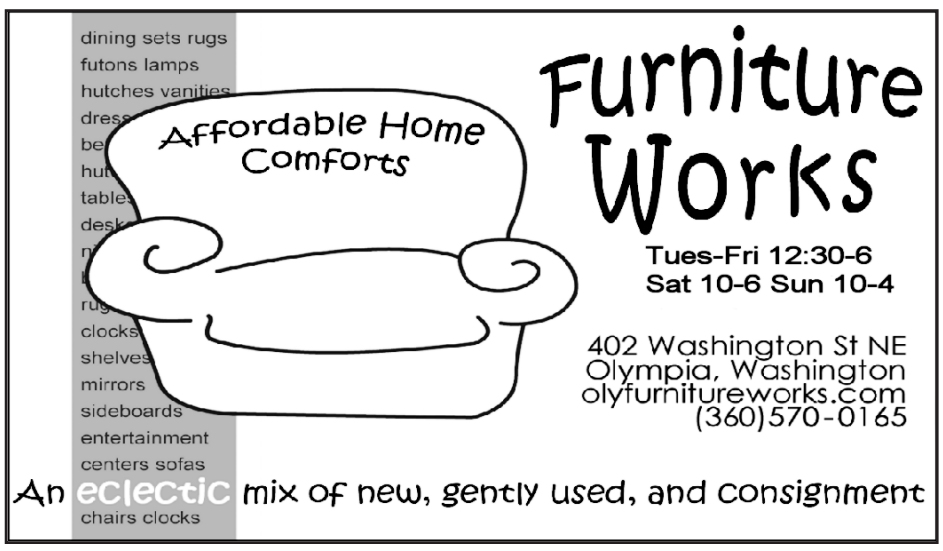
Members of both programs receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, student loan forbearance, child care benefits, and a $4,725 Education Award upon completion of a successful term of service.

Info: Beth Meyer at (360) 943-0780 x126. www.communityyouthservices.org, click on Programs, then AmeriCorps.

Gleaners Second Season Under Way

The Gleaners Coalition was formed in early 2005 with a mission to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by increasing access to fresh, locally grown produce for low- and no-income members of our community. In our first year, we brought more than 11,000 lbs. of fresh produce to the Thurston County Food Bank and other local organizations. This year our goal is to bring in more than 25,000 lbs. We are off to a great start with biweekly work and lunch parties at Kirsop Farms that began May 6. New programs include "Giving Gardens" which will provide a range of produce typically missing at the Food Bank, and TaSTE, which will provide samples and recipes using gleaned produce to Food Bank clients.

If you would like to participate in gleaning activities, set aside a row for the hungry in your own garden, or find out other ways to participate, check out our web-site www.gleanerscoalition.org, where you can register as a volunteer and receive updates on activities. Or contact Barry at 360 705-2375.



Who gets to decide what form of birth control a woman uses?

by Janet Blanding

Who should be involved in deciding what form of birth control a woman uses? She should, certainly. Her partner? He has a role to play; he should be able to voice an opinion. Her doctor? A health care provider might share information as to what would be appropriate. Her pharmacist? Maybe, if there's a drug interaction of which she should be aware. God? Sure, if you're into that sort of thing. The owner of her local grocery store? I don't think so.

The owner of Ralph's Thriftway has taken the birth control choice of the women whom Ralph's pharmacy serves into his own hands by refusing to stock Plan B emergency contraception, commonly known as "the morning after pill." It should be noted that Plan B is not the same as RU486, mifepristone, sometimes called "the abortion pill." RU486 causes an implanted embryo to abort. Plan B is a contraceptive taken after unprotected sex or condom or other birth control failure. It will not affect an existing pregnancy, but instead disrupts the processes of ovulation, fertilization and implantation, much in the same manner as simple birth control pills. It is a contraceptive, not an abortifacient.

Is refusing to stock a drug that prevents unwanted pregnancies legal? In Massachusetts earlier this year, Walmart was sued by three women who were denied prescribed emergency contraception because the colossal corporation refused to stock it. Walmart changed its national policy regarding Plan B after the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy investigated and found Walmart to be in violation of a state law that requires all pharmacies to stock commonly prescribed drugs. According to Jeff Smith of the Washington Board of Pharmacy, "we have the same rule here in Washington." Washington Administrative Code 246.869.150 states that a "pharmacy must maintain at all times a representative assortment of drugs in order to the meet the pharmaceutical needs of its patients." Granted, a pharmacy in a nursing home may not need to stock Plan B, but until recently I was a frequent customer at Ralph's, including the pharmacy there, and I can imagine a scenario in which Plan B might meet my pharmaceutical needs.

I believe that Ralph's is in violation of WAC 246.869.150. The Board of Pharmacy has a complaint process, but no complaints against Ralph's have yet been filed.

Currently, the Board of Pharmacy is considering the issue of "conscientious refusal," whether an individual pharmacist has the legal right to refuse to fill a prescription he or she finds morally objectionable. But individual pharmacists at Ralph's don't have to grapple with such a question, since Ralph's does not even stock, and has never stocked, emergency contraception. If the Board of Pharmacy decides against a pharmacist's right to refusal, could a store policy of not stocking EC be a way to nevertheless deny a woman access to contraception? Steve Saxe, Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy in Washington says "the board is wrestling with this whole issue right now."

In Olympia, Plan B is available at Rite Aid, Albertson's, Kmart, Shopko, Target, Top Foods, Walgreen's and Walmart with a doctor's prescription. At Fred Meyer, Martin's Southgate Drug, and Safeway, Plan B is available without a prescription. Since 1998, emergency contraception has been available without a prescription in certain pharmacies if a pharmacist present has been certified to initiate therapy under signed protocols with a prescriber. This means that if a condom breaks on Friday night, a woman could walk into Fred Meyer on Saturday morning, talk to a pharmacist, and get emergency contraception immediately, without having consulted a doctor. After all, Plan B is so safe, an FDA advisory panel recommended it for over the counter status, only to be politically derailed by pro-life extremists.

Why is it that most of the pharmacies in Olympia don't participate in this program which allows EC to be dispensed without a prescription? One pharmacy tech complained that it was "too time consuming." Another pharmacist agreed, saying that the intake procedure "requires 20-30 minutes counseling time uninterrupted in a confidential place." Not surprisingly, the pharmacies that sell Plan B to women who walk in without a prescription seem to sell a lot more of the product than pharmacies that can't. At a pharmacy that participates in the protocol, a pharmacist who wished to remain anonymous estimated that they dispense Plan B "about once a day." At K-mart, however, which doesn't participate in the protocol, pharmacist Lon Lloyd says, "in the last 5 years we haven't filled a single prescription for Plan B."

> I feel a sense of personal betrayal over this issue because I have spent so much money at Ralph's and Bayview.

So does it make sense from a business point of view for those pharmacies that don't sell much Plan B to keep it in stock? Jennifer Allen of Planned Parenthood points out that "it's good business to look out for the best interests of your customers, and that means timely access to medication." Emergency contraception is particularly time-sensitive, as it is most effective when taken as soon as possible after unprotected sex. Could a pharmacy like Ralph's lose money if it stocks Plan B, which has a shelf life of four years, but doesn't sell it? Not likely. Carol Cox of Barr Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Plan B, states that "the company accepts returns of Plan B unopened, outdated packages." While it is possible that there isn't an enormous demand for Plan B at Ralph's, Ralph's has nothing to lose by stocking it. If Ralph's pharmacy dispenses enough Plan B to prevent one or two unwanted pregnancies a year, wouldn't it have been worth it?

Every pharmacy should stock emergency contraception. It is a commonly prescribed drug, classified by the World Health Organization as "an essential drug." The clock is ticking when a woman needs EC, and she may be particularly stressed and perhaps embarrassed if she has trouble obtaining it. She shouldn't have to waste time locating an unfamiliar pharmacy. She needs to get EC quickly to avoid an unwanted pregnancy; the Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that as many as 51,000 abortions were prevented by EC use in 2000. Isn't reducing the need for abortions a goal we can all share?

I feel a sense of personal betrayal over this issue because I have spent so much money at Ralph's and Bayview. Once I got past the inspirational book section, I used to feel good about shopping at these stores. They are locally owned, and they make contributions to OFS (as well as other community organizations) when I make purchases there. Although I buy most of my groceries at the Co-op, there are some things the Co-op doesn't carry that I've just got to have. Where should I go instead? I don't like shopping at huge chains like Safeway or Albertson's. Top Foods is smaller (17 stores, all in Washington), but it's a long drive, and gas is expensive. My hope is that Ralph's will change its policy and start stocking Plan B, either as a result of legal challenge, or public pressure. A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 19th, time and location to be announced, to discuss possible actions community members might take regarding this issue. If you would like more information about this meeting, please send email or phone contact info to planboly@hotmail.com.

▸ **Direct Action** *from page 1*

accidents; they are war crimes. The actions of the activists who were arrested may not be congruent with local laws, but they are in full compliance with international laws, and in so far as those laws have been ratified by the United States government, they are also in compliance with the US Constitution. If anything, these activists are law-abiding global citizens who are trying to hold accountable the largest organized crime syndicate in the world: the United States government.

Holding the United States government accountable to its human rights violations, both abroad and here, ought to be the most immediate goal of the global citizen, and in-turn the peace movement here in America. To do so, we must create an active democracy—a direct democracy that is infused with an ethical dimension—in this country through waging a non-violent campaign of civil disobedience and direct action. The Port of Olympia is just the beginning, not only for this town, but also for the nation and the world.

To pull off this campaign on a mass scale—one that is necessary for true democratic participation—we will have to find new ways of working together. From this moment on, we must walk as if each step was not merely our own, but a step of our entire movement—our entire history. We must walk collectively into the future. This requires an acceptance of great responsibility, and deep perpetual reflection on one's own consciousness, but the reward will be far superior to the burden. The energy we use in working together will fuel the light that will guide us toward freedom. The only way we will be able to walk toward that light—toward that freedom—is if we walk together. Essentially, the cooperation that we foster in helping us realize our peace will also help us realize our justice, and the struggles that we endure today will be the source of our freedom for tomorrow.

SOUTH SOUND
GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper
Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.
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Olympia, WA 98501
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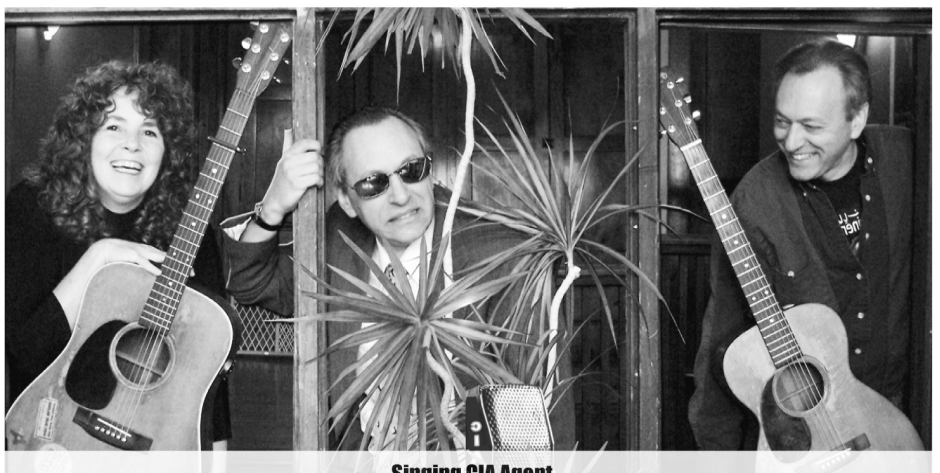
speech@olywa.net
www.olywa.net/speech

VICS
PIZZERIA
360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

Olympia Local, American Postal Workers Union *presents…*
Triple Trouble Tour:
A Fair & Balanced Brew of Satire & Songs to Stir the Soul



Anne Feeney
"The best labor singer in North America"—*Utah Phillips*
Singing CIA Agent
George Shrub
"The business of America is none of your business."—*George Shrub*
Dave Lippman
"A National Treasure"
—*L.A. Herald-Examiner*
Friday, June 30th, 7:30pm
Labor Temple—119½ N. Capitol Way, Olympia
$10 suggested ($5 low income, no one turned away)
Keep the Mail in Olympia!
Voice your objection to Postal Service consolidation & service reduction. Small communities like Olympia suffer, while large mailers like AOL / Time Warner benefit. Write the Postal Rate Commission.
www.lunewsviews.com/olympia

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300 5th Ave SW, Olympia • 705-2819
"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Olympia Port Militarization Resistance

Photo by: Scott Yoos

5/24—The first of two human blockades which eventually forced a Stryker convoy to turn around and take another route to the port.

Photo by: Carrie Lybecker

5/30—Citizens tear down the port gate in order to stop a crime in process.

Photo by: Carrie Lybecker

5/30—After the gate came down, the patriots rushed through and staked their ground.

Photo by: Carrie Lybecker

5/29—Riot cops are forced to listen to TESC Professor Steve Niva speak about the massive permanent military bases being constructed in Iraq.

5/23—An armed Stryker vehicle makes its way through the streets of Olympia.

Photo by: Sandy Mayes

5/23—Vigil on State & Plum.

Photo by: Scott Yoos

5/24—Between 5/22 and 5/30 a total of 38 anti-war protesters were arrested.

Background Photo by: David Loren

Photo by: Carrie Lybecker

5/30—For a second day in a row, police used pepper spray on protesters, who provided aide to one another.

Photo by: David Loren

5/24—The last standing duo.

Statement from the newly-formed Port Militarization Resistance and the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

In four years of the war in Iraq, over 2,500 US soldiers and over 150,000 Iraqis have died. Hundreds of billions of dollars later, our troops are still fighting in Iraq. The declared mission has been proven false and now civil war rages on. This is an illegal war founded on lies told by the Bush administration and sustained by Congressional acquiescence, Republican and Democrat alike.

The discrepancy between public opinion and US policy both locally and nationally is evidence of a failure of representation in our electoral democracy. Nationally, numerous polls demonstrate diminishing support for the war. Locally, since the military shipments through Olympia's port began in 2004, the community has fully employed a broad spectrum of democracy's tools—including letter-writing and petitioning public officials in open forums—to oppose the occupation of Iraq and the Port of Olympia profiting from it in any way. In large numbers, we have asked the Port Commissioners to withdraw support for the war and stop shipments to Iraq. Yet, just as the war, the killing, and corporate war-profiteering continue, so do the military shipments through Olympia .

The port is a public institution, yet, to date, there has been no meaningful democratic process for deciding what type of commerce is acceptable to residents and taxpayers.

The weapons shipments, and the use of *our* public property to prolong and supply the war in Iraq have made us complicit in crimes against humanity. We refuse to be complicit any longer. We will continue to utilize every available instrument of democracy, including direct action and disruption when necessary. We are working to stop the war machine by standing in front of the machines of war as they attempt to enter our port.

Just as soldiers have a responsibility to disobey unlawful orders, we have a responsibility to refuse to cooperate with the American Empire.

Nobody should have to join the military in order to have a job or have health care; there should be more opportunities for our youth, poor, and people of color. We support the troops as human beings with families to feed and obligations to fulfill. We do not support their actions in support of empire.

We have engaged in all traditional measures to affect policy regarding the invasion and occupation of Iraq and must continue to work, through a variety of tactics, to influence change so that the public port reflects the values of our community.

We stand *for* a peoples' democracy and *against* empire. We hope to be an inspiration to other communities and we ask for their solidarity and to reject the militarization of our American society. We call for action and an end the militarization of our port!

For updates, visit **www.omjp.org**.

"Green Scare" Update & Defending Civil Liberties

by Kay Oss, from Olympia Civil Liberties Resource

Olympia Civil Liberties Resource is an Olympia-based organization working to defend the civil liberties of all citizens—particularly activists exercising their constitutional rights. OCLR seeks to educate the public regarding current threats to civil liberties, and to act as a general resource for activists. Our website is www.olycivlib.org. Our email address is olycivlib@riseup.net, and our civil liberties hotline is (360) 556-6878

The federal government is investigating a series of arsons attributed to environmental and animal rights activists. No one was injured in any of these events, yet the defendants are being called "eco-terrorists." The government is using the "T" word as a license to suspend civil liberties and employ the USA Patriot Act. FBI tactics and the use of grand juries has a chilling effect on free speech and expression of dissent. The government preys on an atmosphere of fear to intimidate citizens into answering questions that may be beyond the scope of the investigations. There is a long history of not cooperating with a grand jury on the basis of upholding constitutional and civil rights. A grand jury threatens constitutional protections in numerous ways, including circumventing the 4th, 5th and 6th amendments and violating the 1st amendment. When targeted against social movements, grand juries are a tool of political repression used to gather any and all information on a particular social movement.

Eugene Activist Resists the Grand Jury

On May 18, in Eugene, OR, activist and nursing student Jeff Hogg became the first person to be jailed for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury in the recent wave of earth liberation cases dubbed the "green scare". Jeff had received a subpoena to testify as a witness. Jeff spoke at a rally before entering the courtroom and was joined by supporters including Alejandro Queral of the NW Constitutional Rights Center and Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center. Incarceration for contempt of court, by law, is intended to compel testimony rather than to punish. In Jeff's case, however, he has made a statement that he will not be compelled to testify and that he is refusing to cooperate on the basis that the grand jury is unconstitutional. Therefore, his continued incarceration is punitive, which is a violation of the law. Jeff has not actually been charged with a crime, and he would be released if he cooperated with the government investigation. Jeff's strength in resisting the grand jury and refusing to inform on activists in his community is an example for us all.

Jeff Hogg made this statement before he was jailed for refusing to cooperate:

"Today I am being forced to choose between betraying social change movements or going to jail without committing a crime. It's not a fun choice to make and it makes me question everything I believe in. I'd like to finish my first year of nursing school and enjoy the nice sunny weather this summer. However, I will not be coerced by the government to give up my principles. Unfortunately, I will probably not be the last person subpoenaed by this grand jury. So I ask you to think about what if it was you or someone you are close to? I feel very supported by this community and I don't think I would be better supported anywhere else. Only by showing solidarity and strength will we overcome those who coerce and intimidate."

Write support letters to Jeff: Jeffrey Hogg #1065518, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 USA

How Olympia Civil Liberties Resource Can Help You

If you choose to resist the grand jury or FBI interrogation, Olympia Civil Liberties Resource is here to provide you with any information you need, including what your rights are and other legal assistance. If you choose not to cooperate with a grand jury, you can be jailed for contempt of court for the duration that the grand jury is convened, up to 18 months and possibly longer in special circumstances. Olympia Civil Liberties Resource can help you obtain legal support, organize to generate community support and awareness around your resistance and its legal implications, and publicize your case in both grassroots and mainstream media, if you so desire. Our intention is to provide a basis of support so that a person does not feel isolated and without support when one is targeted by the government. If you choose not to cooperate, you may do so knowing that you have support and many of your needs may be addressed by your supporters and the community. If you appear before a grand jury and answer questions, you will be called as a witness for the prosecution in a federal court trial.

Olympia Update on the Green Scare, May 25 2006

The FBI has been knocking on doors in Olympia to try to get information on people in the activist community. Please remember you have the right to remain silent! Even if you are innocent, if you choose to cooperate with the FBI or grand jury you may incriminate yourself or others. Olympia Civil Liberties Resource anticipates that Olympia residents will receive subpoenas to testify before a grand jury to answer questions about the activist community. When this occurs, we are prepared to support you if you choose not to cooperate.

Several people in Olympia have cooperated with the FBI and answered questions. The community does not know the extent of their testimony. So far, no one has received a subpoena to the grand jury in Seattle, but the grand jury issued new indictments on May 11.

Briana Waters' trial has been postponed indefinitely. She was originally scheduled to go on trial in Seattle on June 5. A former Olympia resident, Briana Waters is so far the only defendant in the recent earth liberation cases who is scheduled for trial in Washington State. Briana is charged with "use of a destructive device" in relation to the May 21, 2001 arson at a UW horticulture laboratory.

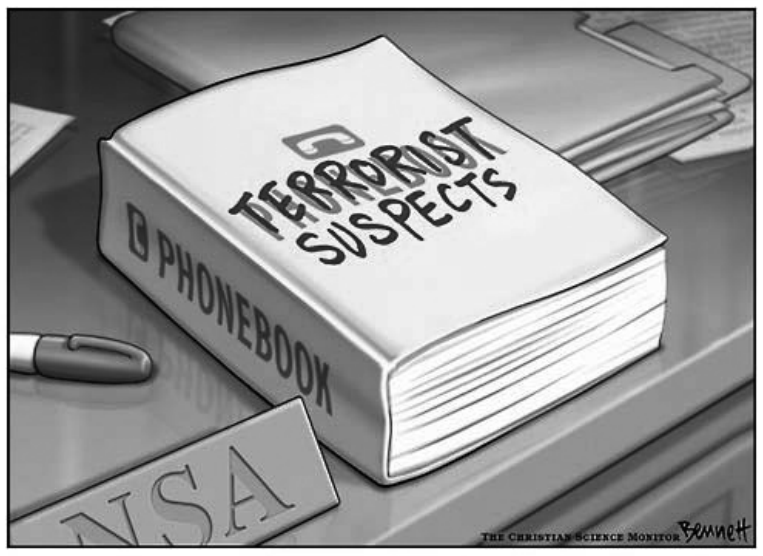
Two others have been indicted in the incident: Justin Solondz has not been apprehended, and William Rodgers committed suicide in custody in Arizona in December. Both are former Olympia residents. If convicted, Briana Waters and Justin Solondz face a mandatory minimum sentence of 35 years. Two alleged arsonists in the UW incident have not been named by prosecutors. These are possibly cooperating witnesses whose testimony has contributed to the indictments.

The Seattle grand jury also indicted Josephine Sunshine Overaker and Kevin Tubbs in relation to the 1998 arson two Olympia area USDA Animal Damage Control facilities. Both have already been indicted in relation to other incidents of alleged sabotage. Tubbs is in custody in Oregon awaiting trial for previous charges and has been designated a cooperating witness by the prosecution. Overaker has not been apprehended.

In April, Olympia residents Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher were charged with involvement in the second arson at Romania Chevrolet Truck Center in Eugene. Both Joyanna and Nathan were arrested in Olympia on March 23, 2006 and charged in relation to a 2001 alleged arson at Jefferson Poplar Farm in Clatskanie, OR. Nathan and Joyanna both now face 47 arson charges, one attempted arson charge and two "use of a destructive device" charges. If found guilty on all counts they face a mandatory minimum sentence of 65 years imprisonment.

Upcoming Events:

June 9-11 Weekend of Resistance Against the Green Scare: Olympia events will include:



June 9: Reclaim the streets parade and party beginning 4 pm at Heritage Park!! Bring noisemakers and marching/dancing shoes! There will be music and also speakers!

June 10: Educational forum—*The Green Scare, the Patriot Act and You!* 4-6 pm at Friendship Hall, Olympia YWCA 220 Union Ave SE

June 10: Benefit concert for Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher, two Olympia residents who are in custody in Oregon awaiting trial. This event is at ABC House, 105 Sherman St. SW, 8pm. Musicians include: Onyx, rain, Lake, and others. For more information email supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com

The Weekend of Resistance is an international solidarity response to the call made by activist and prisoner, Jeff "Free" Luers. Learn more at www.freefreenow.org

ALEC: Writing Legislation Paid for by Corporate America

by Karen Pickett and Melissa Roberts

The U.S. public is becoming increasingly aware of federal corruption (in both the executive and congressional branches), but few are aware of a group of heavy-handed manipulators of State legislation: a corporate-funded organization called the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). ALEC is a conservative public policy lobbying group funded by over 300 corporations which writes and promotes hundreds of pieces of state legislation that serve the corporate agenda. ALEC provided models for over 3,100 pieces of legislation introduced, and more than 450 laws enacted in 1999 - 2000.

Some examples of ALEC-written laws propose, for example,

- To lower diesel emission standards and loosen testing requirements
- Prohibit state regulation of greenhouse gas emission prior to ratification of the Kyoto protocol
- Exempt large insurance providers from rate regulations
- Require "economic impact" analysis on par with "environmental assessment"
- Make it more difficult for states to mandate health coverage

Mastermind behind recent "domestic terrorism" label

Most recently, ALEC is the mastermind of state and federal legislation that puts animal rights protest actions into the realm of "domestic terrorism"—drawing much more severe penalties and aggressive prosecution for those convicted of crimes formerly known as arson, for example. A Pennsylvania law passed in April 2006 is one state legislative example, and the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (HR 4239) is its federal counterpart. Discussion of the latter occurred at a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing May 23, 2006, and makes property damage such as the "loss of animals or records" and "conspiracy against scientists" prosecutable as terrorism under federal law.

ALEC, founded in 1973 by right wing activist Paul Weyrich (who coined the term "moral majority"), calls itself the "largest bi-partisan membership association of state legislators," but is actually one of the most powerful corporate lobbies in the U.S., and writes laws for state legislators. In the late 1980's ALEC's agenda became more shaped by corporate money, promoting laws which engender privatization of prisons and health care, and energy deregulation. Enron's Ken Lay was a keynoter at ALEC's 1997 convention, after he offered $20,000 of funding for the convention.

ALEC is funded by industry groups, conservative foundations, and corporations like: Enron, Exxon, the American Petroleum Institute, Philip Morris, Coors, the American Nuclear Energy Council, Shell, Texaco, Chlorine Chemistry Council, the NRA, Corrections Corporation of America, Archer Daniels Midland, International Paper, McDonald's, AT & T, Wal-Mart, and hundreds of others. Their funding base reads like a who's who in the extractive resource and chemical industries.

Pro-corporate legislation written below the public's radar

Unlike Congress, many state legislators have little or no paid staff to carry out the research, drafting, and fact-checking required to scrutinize volumes of legislative proposals that flood their desks. ALEC operates by convening "task forces", bringing legislators (nearly all Republican) to the table to sit across from corporate reps to hash out "solutions" to impediments to corporate control. Thus, through ALEC, corporations have special interest legislation promoted to state legislators across the country without having their name on the legislation.

ALEC puts damage to property on par with actual harm to human life. When the Dept. of Justice announced environmental and animal rights activists as their top "domestic terrorism" priority, nowhere in the pronouncements of "terrorism" were body counts or even bodily injuries. Rather, "injury" is defined in dollars lost by corporations who are in the business of building multi-million-dollar developments on endangered species habitat.

ALEC, in collaboration with the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance, has written model legislation upping the ante for action taken against corporations in the business of development, logging, mining and vivisection. ALEC is responsible for legislation that has been introduced in 9 states in the last two years seeking to brand politically motivated property destruction, trespass or arson as acts of "domestic terrorism".

> ALEC's funding base reads like a who's who in the extractive resource and chemical industries.

One such law passed in April, 2006 in Pennsylvania, amending the state code to include "eco-terrorism"—defined as a person committing one of a number of "specified offenses against property" with the intent to intimidate or coerce another individual lawfully participating in an activity which involves animals, plants, or natural resources—or the

▸ **Corporate legislation**
continued on page 9

Letter to local Caterpillar distributor

by Annamarie Murano

Many of us know the personal tragedy of Rachel Corrie's death under the blade of a Caterpillar D-9 militarized bulldozer while protecting a Palestinian family home in Rafah, Gaza Strip. We also know the international tragedy of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Israeli military through the destruction of Palestinian homes and livelihoods, civilian infrastructure and the building of the racially discriminatory West Bank Barrier resulting in Israeli settlement expansion and confiscation of Palestinian land. We worked to educate our regional Caterpillar distributor, NC Machinery, about these tragedies and they have yet to reply to our requests.

This will be our third year demonstrating at NC Machinery for the National Day of Action coinciding with the annual Caterpillar shareholder meeting on June 14th. This meeting was postponed from April to June due to the proximity of the anniversary of Rachel's death and the censorship of the play, *My Name is Rachel Corrie*. Caterpillar recently spent millions of dollars on a public relations campaign to clean up its image as a perpetrator of human rights abuses. We are already affecting Caterpillar Inc. through education, media and direct pressure.

A member of the Olympia community will be traveling to Chicago to attend the shareholder meeting and to support a resolution challenging Caterpillar Inc. to abide by its own code of conduct which states, "as a company, we strive to contribute toward a global environment in which all people can work safely and live healthy, productive lives, now and in the future." On this day, we need you to demonstrate your support of the resolution and hold CAT accountable.

Please join us at 4pm on June 14th at NC Machinery in Tukwila, Washington – 17035 West Valley Highway. Carpools will be leaving the Westside Plaza, at Harrison and Division at 2:30 pm.

For more information, directions or to volunteer visit www.olycatcampaign.org, email olycat@gmail.com or call (360)485-5745. Sponsoring this event are Olympia–Rafah Sister City Project, Amnesty International - Olympia, Palestine Solidarity Committee - Seattle, Veterans for Peace - Rachel Corrie Chapter 109, the Green Party of South Puget Sound and many more.

Thank you very much for your support and hopes for changing the way Caterpillar conducts business.

Olympia CAT Campaign

The following letter was sent to John Harnish, president and CEO of the Harnish Group, Inc. who owns the largest Caterpillar equipment distributor in the northwest: NC Machinery.

May 26, 2006

Mr. John Harnish, President and CEO
The Harnish Group, Inc.
17025 W. Valley Hwy., Tukwila, WA 98188

Dear Mr. Harnish,

A year ago on April 13, 2005, over a hundred people protested outside your Tukwila headquarters, drawing attention to Caterpillar's complicity with large-scale human rights violations in the Occupied Territories. A month prior to the demonstration, we attempted to meet with you, by contacting you through a certified letter and several phone calls. Our goal then and now is not to damage the business or reputation of the Harnish Group, but rather to enlist you in the growing campaign to convince Caterpillar to halt its sales to the Israeli military.

We would again like to meet with you to discuss this campaign at your earliest convenience.

As the largest distributor of Caterpillar equipment in Washington, the Harnish Group is uniquely positioned to play an important role in ensuring that Caterpillar complies with international law concerning corporations and human rights. Caterpillar's equipment, most notably the D9 and D10 militarized bulldozers, is directly implicated in grave abuses of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli army.

Since 1967, the Israeli army has used Caterpillar equipment to destroy over 12,000 houses in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, leaving tens of thousands of men, women and children homeless. Home demolitions are usually carried out without warning, often at night, and the occupants are forcibly evicted with no time to gather their belongings.

The Israeli army has continued bulldozing homes even when notified that residents were still inside the targeted homes. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in such instances. All these home demolitions and civilian deaths are illegal under international law, specifically violating the Hague Regulation of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

> Since 1967, the Israeli army has used Caterpillar equipment to destroy over 12,000 houses in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, leaving tens of thousands of men, women and children homeless.

On March 16, 2003, Rachel Corrie, a young woman from Olympia whom many of us knew, was killed by Israeli soldiers driving a Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer while she was defending the home of a Palestinian family from demolition.

Since 2003, the United Nations has begun to develop standards for corporations in regards to human rights. The UN has stated that companies should not "engage in or benefit from" violations of international human rights or humanitarian law and that companies "shall further seek to ensure that the goods and services they provide will not be used to abuse human rights."

Spokespeople for Caterpillar have acknowledged that the company is aware of the Israeli army's use of Caterpillar equipment to destroy civilian homes, infrastructure and agricultural resources but Caterpillar has, nevertheless, refused either to condemn these practices or to take actions necessary to halt the sale or transfer of Caterpillar equipment to the Israeli army.

Caterpillar's own code of conduct requires it to consider the broad impact of its business. The company's Code of Worldwide Business Conduct states that "Caterpillar accepts the responsibilities of global citizenship." The company's commitment to financial success, the code says, "must also take into account social, economic, political and environmental priorities."

To ensure that Caterpillar complies with both international law and its own code of conduct will require a broad-based campaign of organizations, consumers and distributors. Caterpillar can be a successful company without its military sales, and in doing so can truly fulfill its obligations as a global citizen.

The campaign to stop sales of Caterpillar equipment to the Israeli military is supported by Amnesty International, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Presbyterian Church USA, the World Council of Churches, the Sisters of Mercy, Churches for Peace in the Middle East, Human Rights Watch, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and literally hundreds of other national and international organizations.

We would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss the ways the Harnish Group can lend its voice to this important campaign and stand up for human rights. We look forward to a reply by Friday, June 9th.

Sincerely,

A large coalition of peace and justice organizations in Olympia and the northwest

▸ **Corporate legislation** *from page 8*

use of an animal, plant or natural resource facility; or by committing a specified offense against property with the intent to prevent a person from lawfully participating in an activity involving animals, plants or natural resources, or using an animal, plant or natural resource facility.

Those "specified offenses against property" include risking catastrophe, criminal mischief and institutional or agricultural vandalism, as well as arson. A similar bill narrowly voted down by Maine's House of Representatives would make it a felony to "intentionally damage, destroy or tamper with the property of another ... for the purpose of causing substantial harm to the health, safety, business, calling, career, financial condition, reputation or personal relationships of the person with the property interest."

There is little doubt that the public's understanding of "terrorism" includes actual injury to living people, and not acts of protest that primarily affect the profit margin of a large corporation. But these proposed laws—and the current sweep of environmental protesters who committed acts of sabotage against corporations or animal experimentation labs with zero injuries—are right in sync with the corporate agenda of protection of wealth and protection of property above all else.

Groups including Move On, the SEIU and Steelworkers unions and others have launched PLAN—the Progressive Legislation Action Network—to provide a counter lobbying effort at the state level to ALEC's agenda of bringing the most radical, right wing policies to the floor of state legislatures across the country. Other organizations including NRDC and Defenders of Wildlife have put up an ALEC-watch website and campaign against ALEC policies.

Mark Your "Protest Calendar"

The American Legislative Exchange Council's 33rd annual meeting is in San Francisco July 19 - 23, 2006. The meeting is at the San Francisco Marriott, downtown SF, at 55 Fourth Street. Press are allowed, but screened by ALEC. ALEC even has a "Kid Congress"! See http://www.alec.org/3/annual-meeting/2006-annual-meeting-general-info.html for more details.

Sources:

Corporate America's Trojan Horse in the States http://www.ALECwatch.org/report.html

Ghostwriting the Law, Sept./Oct. 2002 Mother Jones

www.ALEC.org. You can download their booklet *Animal and Ecological Terrorism in America*

▸ **Guv'nah** *from page 1*

of low wage work, poverty and unending dependence on state benefits.

Parents work hard every day, no matter their socio-economic status. Penalizing families who are struggling to meet their basic needs is unfair to the families, the children and ultimately, to the community. Rather than sanctioning, our government should provide family support. This approach would recognize parents as resourceful, strong, competent and capable. It would:

- support parental care of children as more beneficial and effective,
- include access to high quality childcare and preschools,
- ensure medical and dental coverage,
- encourage education and job training, leading to living wage jobs with benefits,
- work with communities to ensure adequate transportation and affordable housing.

Some in our community believe the myths and stereotypes that welfare recipients are lazy and need to be forced off the welfare roles. Few understand that it is the policies of the program that keep people mired in poverty. Governor Gregoire now wants to go so far as to punish children for the inadequacies of the Work First program. We need to educate our communities regarding family support versus family sanctions. Policies that support poor families break the cycle of poverty. Sanctions only make it more difficult for children to escape. Ask your legislators to maintain the child safety net and call or write Governor Gregoire, asking her to implement family support, not sanctions!

Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
(360) 902-4111

Contact WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, to learn more. Join us for a day of action at the Evergreen State College graduation, where Governor Gregoire is the speaker: **June 16th, 1pm**

Olympia (360) 352-9716
wrocoly@wroc.org

Seattle (206)324-3063
wrocsea@wroc.org

www.wroc.org

Hundreds Mark Historic May Day in Olympia

Photo by: Scott Yoos

Olympia, 5/1—"Capitalism cannot be reformed."

Olympia, WA—Hundreds of community members celebrated International Workers Day on Monday May 1st, 2006. People in Olympia assembled in Sylvester Park for a "Day Without an Immigrant" and joined in solidarity with millions of people across the US and workers around the world.

People gathered while speakers from various community groups talked about immigration, Zapatistas, cross-border organizing, local worker solidarity, and other ways for people to get organized. When the speeches ended, people took to the streets toward the State Capitol to voice their views.

The doors to the State Capitol building were locked. No politician came out to greet the May Day celebrants. People made speeches from bullhorns calling for immigration reform and the need for more worker solidarity. At many times people chanted "¡Sí, Se Puede!" "Yes, we can!"

The May Day parade reassembled at the base of the Capitol stairs, approximately a half hour later, and then proceeded down Capital Way toward downtown. Some stores along the parade route were closed for the day in solidarity. The parade took a right on 4th Ave. and ended at the Artesian Well in the parking lot by Jefferson Street.

Bike-riding police officers, a half block away, guarded Pizza Time. Pizza Time became a focal point of the local labor movement last year when all 10 workers went on strike for better working conditions in February 2005. Those workers were locked out by the current owner, Heath Flores, in August. A boycott of Pizza Time still remains in effect, although Pizza Time was not made an issue this May Day.

People took turns hitting a piñata made to look like a Border Patrol SUV. A mobile sound system broadcast Free Radio Olympia 98.5fm, and a dance party started in the parking lot. An IWW banner proclaiming "Capitalism cannot be reformed" got duct taped to a bank billboard overlooking the parking lot on 4th Ave.

Hundreds of people in Olympia answered the call to not work or go to school on May 1st and gathered to support immigrant and worker rights. Many people talked about taking their May Day experiences back to their workplaces and asserting their rights on the job.

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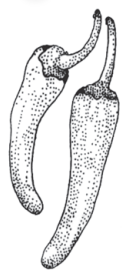

The Co-op accepts employment applications at all times, and hires successful applicants as openings arise.

Visit us at: www.olympiafood.coop

Members of Congress Criticize Postal Service

Lack of Openness and Fairness in Consolidation Process

by Clint Burelson

In a letter dated, May 1, 2006, 19 members of Congress, including Brian Baird and Adam Smith expressed serious concerns about the way in which the Postal Service is proceeding in its consolidation plans and asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to determine if the USPS consolidation plans are in line with previous GAO recommendations regarding the consolidation process. The members of Congress join other top Senators and House members who have made previous similar requests to the GAO.

The letter from the 19 members of Congress stated,

"Although GAO recommended that USPS improve its efforts to keep stakeholders informed, our communities affected by current plans to consolidate mail processing plants have told us that they have not been adequately informed about the Postal Service's plans, the extent to which the Postal Service proposed to analyze plant performance and make realignment decisions, or the potential impacts on these communities.

Previous GAO Report Criticized USPS for Lack of Openness and Fairness

In April of 2005, the GAO after studying the USPS consolidation process, issued a report: U.S. Postal Service: The Service's Strategy for Realigning its Mail Processing Infrastructure Lacks Clarity, Criteria, and Accountability, which as the title implies, severely criticized the Postal Service for its lack of openness and fairness in handling consolidations.

In response to the GAO investigation in 2005, Patrick R. Donahue, the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the Postal Service wrote to the GAO in a letter dated 3/18/05:

"The decision to consider an AMP consolidation begins at the local management level, with input from and concern for the views, needs and wishes of stakeholders on the local business community, mailers, employees and their union representatives, and local elected officials."

However, despite Donahue's statement, reports from the consolidated offices indicate that recent decisions to consider an AMP consolidation did not begin at the local management level and the decision did not begin with input from local stakeholders. Community members in various parts of the country have similarly expressed the view that they were not adequately informed of the USPS consolidation plans for the local mail facility and the "needs and wishes" of community members were not even solicited, much less considered.

> The community resistance to unwarranted consolidations is a normal and healthy reaction to the reduction in mail service associated with the way the USPS is currently handling consolidations.

USPS Secretive about Consolidations plans to Avoid Community Resistance

The GAO previously reported the USPS explanation as to why it did not want to be open with the community when conducting consolidations. The April 2005 GAO report stated:

"The Service has stated that it is reluctant to publicly disclose information on its realignment strategy because it believes that it will meet with resistance from employees, communities, and government representatives if it tells them what it is planning on doing too far in advance."

The community resistance to unwarranted consolidations is a normal and healthy reaction to the reduction in mail service associated with the way the USPS is currently handling consolidations. USPS consolidations should improve service, not reduce service.

Make Your Views Known to the Postal Rate Commission

The USPS is currently seeking an advisory opinion from the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) to see if their plans to reduce service as part of the consolidation process violate the law, which requires prompt service to all communities. Many consolidations across the country are on hold pending the outcome of this case. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to request that the PRC decide against the Postal Service and any reduction in service by contacting the PRC at:

Postal Rate Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268
Or "Contact Us" form at www.prc.gov
Or Fax 202-789-6886

For more information contact: Clint Burelson: clintburelson@comcast.net or 360-970-2965

Previous press releases from the Olympia Local regarding consolidation can be found at www.lunewsviews.com/olympia and at www.postalmag.com/olympia.

Keep the Mail in Olympia!

Write: **U.S. Postal Rate Commission**
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268
Subject: Docket N2006-1, Reduction of Mail Service

For more Info:

www.lunewsviews.com/olympia

Voice your objection to Postal Service consolidation and service reduction. Small and mid-sized communities like Olympia will suffer from consolidation, while large mailers like AOL / Time Warner benefit. Postal Rate Commission hearings begin June 15th. ***Now is the time to take action!***

The Battle Against Biotech Foods Begins in Your Stomach

by Kevin J. Anderson

There's a new community group in town, OUT-GMOs (Olympian's United for Truth about Genetically Modified Organisms) that's working to spread awareness of the health and environmental dangers of GMOs. We're launching a free monthly movie/ conversation series this month, starting with the film *Unnatural Selection*. Catch it on June 9th at 7:00 PM at Traditions Café downtown. Please join us and our efforts!

Documentaries are trendy right now for a reason: films summarize information succinctly, they're entertaining, and let's face it: we have a lot of need for community education in our country. According to a Pew Research Center study, 60% of Americans said that they had never eaten a GM food. The scary reality is that nearly everyone in the US has eaten GM foods and the health effects of this are largely unknown. Currently, the FDA's policy is that "GM foods are generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) and they therefore require no safety testing. They leave it up to the company to determine if it's safe. Not all that surprising when you realize that the individual almost single-handedly responsible for this policy is Michael Taylor, a former attorney and vice president of Monsanto.

> GM genes can transfer into our gut bacteria, and continue to create their potentially toxic proteins long after we give up eating GM food.

Monsanto is the same company that brought us such wonders as DDT, Agent Orange, Round Up, and Aspartame. Nowadays, Monsanto is a seed company, number one of ten multinational corporations that collectively account for half of the world's commercial seed sales. Monsanto alone controls 41% of the global market share in commercial corn seed.

The nightmarish cartoon version reads: "Uh, yes, I'd like one large GM Irish potato famine to go please."

There has been only been one peer reviewed human feeding study published and it has scary implications: GM genes can transfer into our gut bacteria, and continue to create their potentially toxic proteins long after we give up eating GM food. The GM crops currently on the market are Corn, Cotton, Canola, Soy, Hawaiian Papaya, Qwest tobacco, alfalfa and a little zucchini and crookneck squash. The "Flavr Savr" tomatoes with genes engineered for long shelf life coincidentally didn't last long on the store shelves and were discontinued because consumers didn't like them.

Outside the official marketplace is a wild, wild west of experimental outdoor releases. In Washington State, for instance, the USDA's APHIS just quietly "approved" two permits for outdoor releases of biopharmaceutical crops—plants that are engineered to produce pharmeceuticals. Washington State University (WSU) was approved to release lactoferrin/ lysozyme barley. SemBioSys's plans involve safflower, but that's all we know for sure--they are, after all "trade secrets." The plants could literally be next door, but locations of plantings aren't publicly available.

The USDA's Inspector General issued a report in December 2005 that chronicled a widespread pattern of negligence in regulating genetically engineered crops on the part of APHIS from May 2003 to April 2005. This isn't a new phenomenon in the US; in 2000 "Starlink corn" cost the US food industry an estimated $1 billion. Little wonder businesses are increasingly opposed to outdoor releases of GMOs. For instance the Barley Commission and the Great Western Malting Company, which exports malt to Japan, are strongly opposed to WSU's plans to biopharm barley. In North Carolina, Ventria is also engineering lactoferrin into rice (protein found in a mother's tears, milk and saliva). The same company and field trials faced opposition from Anheuser-Busch when attempted in Missouri. The expression "tear in my beer" has never sounded quite so poignant.

Fortunately, the rest of the world is much more aware of GMOs in general, and are therefore more outspoken in their opposition. According to the 2003 Pew report, opposition in Europe runs between 65-89%, with Great Britain at the low end of the spectrum and France at the high end. In Japan too, 76% of consumers surveyed were overwhelmingly opposed to scientifically altered fruits and vegetables because of health and environmental concerns.

Why these differences in awareness and opposition? A possible explanation is that a few years back, a prominent research scientist in Europe with more than 300 articles and 12 books to his credit discovered serious health problems in rats fed a diet of GM-potatoes. Arpad Puztai's results were suppressed, yet still made headlines in Europe. There are other alarming studies as well, but these hardly ever gain momentum in the mainstream US media. Is it incidental that the US produces 59% of GM-Crops worldwide? In the EU, GM foods are labeled, and because of greater public awareness, they are quite unpopular in the market place—almost non-existent actually. Once Unilever announced removal of GM ingredients from its European products in 1999, the rest of the food companies there followed suit. The same companies haven't done that here, because consumers haven't demanded it.

I'm sure you value your personal health or at least the health of your family. Stop eating GMOs, and get involved. For more information, contact me.

Kevin J. Anderson is an Olympia resident and can be reached at kevanders@riseup.net

Sister Jackie Hudson to Speak at Northwest Premier of Documentary about Plowshares Nuns

by Holly Gwinn Graham

Since 2002, readers of *Works in Progress* have followed the case of the unjust imprisonment of three Dominican Sisters: Jackie Hudson, Ardeth Platte, and Carol Gilbert for their non-violent symbolic disarmament of a Minuteman III nuclear missile in Northern Colorado. Following a questionable trial in which planned defenses and witnesses were denied them, they were convicted of damaging and sabotaging a national defense area.

Each sister served over three years in separate federal penitentiaries for this Plowshares action, carried out in the tradition of the Berrigan brothers since the 1960s. Plowshares activists choose civil disobedience and as a result are prepared to go to jail, if need be, in the spirit of obedience to higher law.

Now, all three nuns are free!

Sunday, June 4th, 2006 is the 10th anniversary of Sunflower Peace Day. It is also the day a coalition of peace and justice groups—led by Beyond Hiroshima—is proud to bring Sister Jackie Hudson and Colorado filmmaker Brenda Truelson Fox to the Capitol Theater for the Northwest premier of *Conviction*, a documentary about the nuns' action and its aftermath.

This 48-minute film evokes important conversations about the role of religion in politics, the role of nuclear weapons in national defense and the role of international law in the federal courts. It offers much food for thought to all who work for justice, peace, and disarmament in the face of current US foreign policy and this administration's apparent lust for endless war.

This film is suitable for all audiences, and copies will be available in DVD format. Short and succinct, *Conviction* is an excellent teaching tool and dialogue-starter, especially for upper grades and college-level classes.

This event marks the first official Olympia appearance by Sister Jackie Hudson since her standing-room-only talk at Traditions before her sentence came down in 2003. Opening the evening, which begins at 6:30 PM, will be Holly Gwinn Graham performing her documentary song about the sisters' action titled "Sisters of Sacred Earth and Space". Brenda Truelson Fox will introduce the film, and after the screening, she and Sister Jackie will answer questions from the audience.

In a wonderful show of solidarity, this evening is sponsored by a coalition of area peace, social justice, and nuclear disarmament groups that include Beyond Hiroshima, Veterans for Peace Rachel Corrie Chapter 109, Ground Zero/Stop Trident, The Quaker Friends, Unitarian Social Justice Committees, Women in Black, St. Michael's Social Justice Committee, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Traditions Fair Trade, the Antique Sandwich Company, and many individuals.

Admission is based on a sliding scale of $3-6, with $3 advance tickets available from www.buyolympia.com, www.ticketweb.com, Rainy Day Records, Traditions, and groups listed above. Box office opens at 5 PM the night of the show. Doors open at 5:30, and to get you there, Sunday June 4th also features an opportunity you won't want to miss…

Join your friends and neighbors in a Town Photo to be taken at 5PM prompt at Heritage Park, 5th and Water Streets, across from Traditions! Assemble on the corner with the Capitol in the background, and smile your way into history as one who supports nuclear-free Olympia and all our community efforts towards peace, non-violence, and justice in 2006. Come as you are, shining your light, and join us for this first-ever town photo. Copies may be ordered at the park, at the theater, or from the photographer at a later date.

In fact, make June 4th a full day of celebration for peace and—let's say it—love! Earlier in the day, Beyond Hiroshima will be giving out free packets of giant sunflower seeds at the Farmer's Market. Sunflowers are the international symbol of a nuclear-free world. Planting them in your yard will, like disarmament, bring beauty to your life and provide nourishment to some things that really matter… the earth, the birds, the spirit, the heart, the soul.

Letters

Time for Change

Dear Editor:

This letter is about an important and controversial matter: "The undocumented immigrant people."

This is the biggest thing being talked about these days. Immigration reform has been the Government's headache because they do not have a functional program and the illegal population is getting bigger every day. Today It is an unmanageable situation.

Eleven million undocumented immigrants, most legal immigrants, and many citizens in this country hope for a solution where everybody is satisfied.

Bills, proposals in the Congress have not permitted illegal immigrants to stay here and that is why we are showing our political power marching and demanding an immigrant reform.

No supporters of this reform are against America's growth because the immigrants play an important role in that growth. The Unites States, without eleven million immigrants would mean not enough people available to work in the fields, construction, cleaning, restaurants and many other jobs filled by the immigrants.

Besides our hard work, we help support the economy; the immigrants also contribute by providing new and diverse knowledge in different areas.

The United States has given us a better way of life and in return we contribute to the growth of the nation, we both need each other. Now is the moment for a change, this is certainly the best way to keep the country growing. The United States must grant immigrants the civil and human rights that they promote in the Constitution.

—A woman from Colombia

Border War Zone

To the Editor,

President Bush plans to spend billions of our dollars to turn the Mexican border into a war zone, using paramilitary troops and high tech equipment. It's a horrible idea that Congress should quash immediately. Immigration is a result of social and economic forces that the U.S. has a major part in creating, such as poverty and joblessness in South America. The great wealth that undocumented workers create in the U.S. is unacknowledged, while the government illegally declares war on border communities in the U.S. and Mexico. Who can doubt that Chicanos and Mexicans, and other brown-skinned people, will be abused and killed by trigger-happy, privatized soldiers whose bosses care only for the money they make. The dismal record of privatized prisons shows what poor and workingclass people of color can expect.

Millions of immigrants and their supporters in the streets on May Day displayed a powerful force for change that can also help U.S. citizens who are feeling the contempt of our government for their jobs, wages, pensions, and freedom of speech. It's time that unions, women, the elderly, and all people of color join undocumented workers and stop the destruction of their rights and ours.

Sincerely,

—Adrienne Weller

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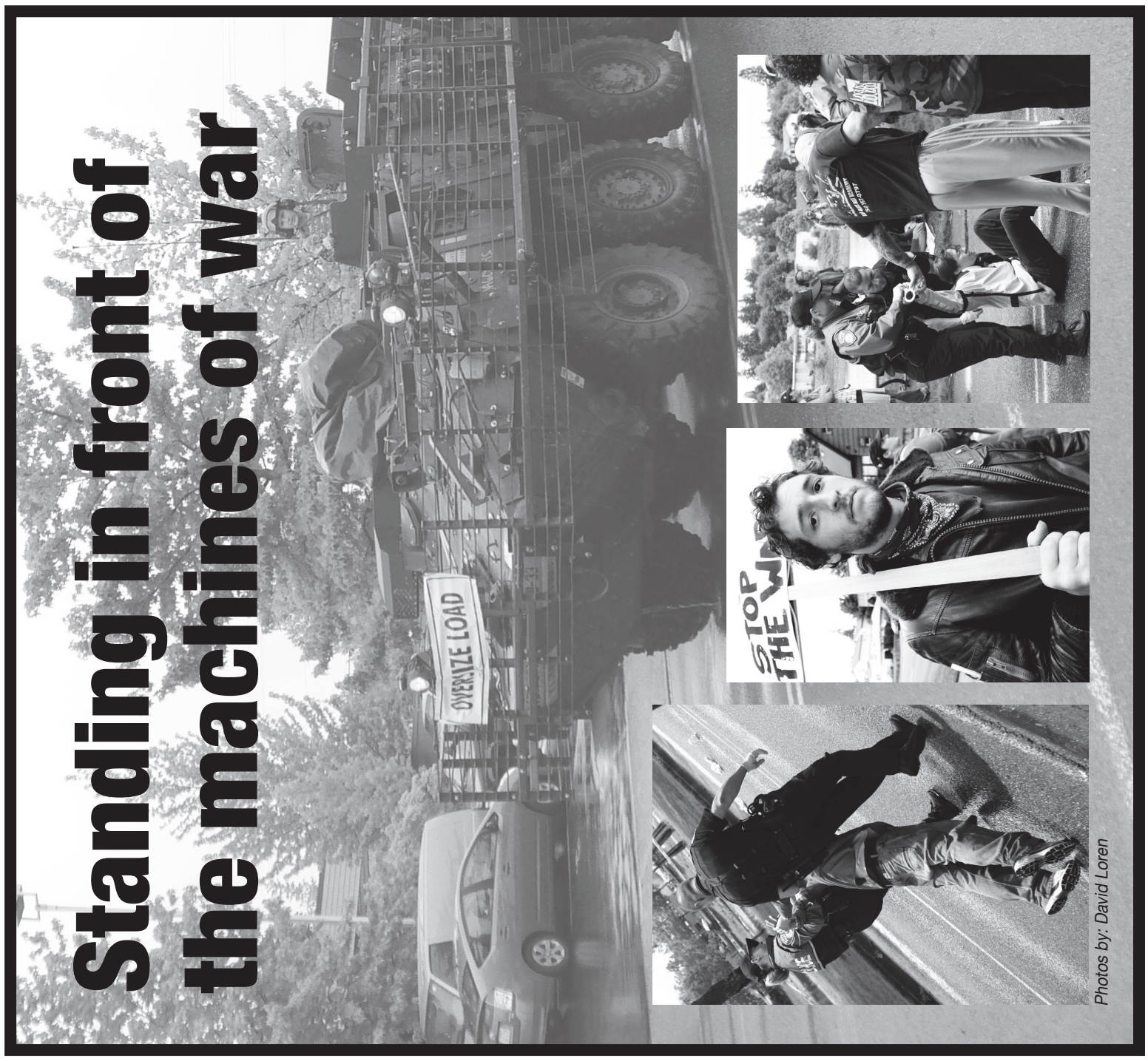

Standing in front of the machines of war

Photos by: David Loren

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Speak Truthiness to Power

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